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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 203

By Graves

A RESOLUTION To honor and recognize Whitney R. Purcell,  
2001 Valedictorian of Gallatin High School.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who through their natural talents and unwavering commitment to academic excellence have distinguished themselves in the classroom and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, Whitney R. Purcell is one such exceptional student who was recently named Valedictorian of the 2001 graduating class at Gallatin High School; and

WHEREAS, Through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and tireless commitment of time and talent, Whitney has achieved outstanding academic success, and has joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and our Nation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Purcell has been a valuable member of many clubs and programs at Gallatin High School, including the 2000-2001 GHS Student Council, YMCA Model United Nations; YMCA Youth Legislature, National Beta Club, Tri-Hi-Y, 2000-2001 Mock Trial Team, 2000-2001 Theatre Performer, Tennessee Tomorrow, GHS Speech and Acting Team, National Forensic League, Math Team, Academic Team, Science Olympiad, Spanish Club and the Gallatin Girls' Cotillion Club; and

WHEREAS, She also participated in the Steering Committee for Public Forum, which was a GHS sponsored debate between candidates of the 19<sup>th</sup> District State 2000 Senatorial Race; and

WHEREAS, Whitney has also served as the "Senior Whip," in which position she was responsible for chairing practice sessions and preparing participants for YMCA Model United Nations and Youth Legislature 2000-2001; and

WHEREAS, This extraordinary young woman has astutely served in several key leadership positions, such as 2000-2001 Secretary of the Senior Class, 2000 Secretary/Treasurer of the GHS Speech and Acting Team, 2001 Vice President of the GHS Speech and Acting Team, 2000-2001 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of S.C.O.P.E., 2000-2001 Vice-President of the GHS National Beta Club Chapter, 2000-2001 Secretary of Tennessee Tomorrow, and on the 2000 staff of the High School YMCA Middle School Model United Nations; and

WHEREAS, Being recognized as the Valedictorian of the 2001 graduating Gallatin High School Class is not her first honor, as Whitney Purcell has distinguished herself in many disciplines; she has placed 2nd at the District Speech Tournament, 3rd at the 2001 National Qualifiers at Brentwood Academy, and she is the recipient of the YWCA Model United Nations Conference 2000 Outstanding Delegate Award; she is a semifinalist in both U.S. Extemporaneous Speaking and Original Oratory at the 2000 National Qualifiers, earned the Degree of Excellence in the National Forensic League, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at Original Oratory and Extemporaneous Speaking at the 2000 Dickson County Speech Tournament, and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in Nashville District 2000 Executive Women's International Scholarship; and

WHEREAS, Whitney was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place for Impromptu Speaking at Murfreesboro's 1999 Blue Raider Forensic Tournament, and is a 1999 Scholar at the Governor's School for the Humanities, U.T. Martin; and

WHEREAS, She received the 1998 YWCA Model United Nations Conference Best Proposal Award and Best Costume Award, and was selected as one of two freshmen from GHS

to participate in “The Student of the Future” roundtable discussions conducted by a local newspaper; she is also the Gallatin Team Gold Winner of both County and District Mock Trial Competitions, and will be going to the State 2001 Competition; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Purcell is a faithful member of the First Baptist Church in Gallatin; and

WHEREAS, In addition to her many academic activities, Whitney R. Purcell has participated in numerous community programs, including volunteering at the 2000 Democratic Headquarters for Sumner County, serving as a Teacher’s Aide for Theatre II and World Studies Classes, tutoring Algebra and Geometry, recording radio commercials promoting June as Dairy Month for 4-H, providing families with holiday meals, gifts, and clothing through her participation in the Spanish Club, crocheting hats for Romanian children for Tennessee Tomorrow, helping to organize the 1998 Diabetes Awareness Clinic at Sumner Regional Medical Center, researching, organizing, and performing at a summer Drug Awareness Program, which was presented in public and private school day cares; and

WHEREAS, She has also assisted in a school-wide Can Drive for Gallatin C.A.R.E.S., aided the Director of the Greater Sumner Chapter of National Junior Cotillion Club by teaching middle school students ballroom dancing and proper etiquette; volunteered for such GHS Beta Club service projects as the Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital, the Gallatin Christian Towers, the Gallatin C.A.R.E.S., in addition to The Foundation House, The Trac House, HomeSafe, the Sumner Regional Medical Center, and the GHS Campus Clean-up, and all Gallatin Girl’s Cotillion Club service projects; and

WHEREAS, In her remarkable high school career, Whitney has earned an exemplary grade point average; her display of intellectual aptitude, ambition, and leadership surely bodes well for her future success; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Purcell’s noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for her parents, her school, and her community; and

WHEREAS, Whitney’s dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend and honor 2001 Gallatin High School Valedictorian, Whitney R. Purcell, on her impressive academic achievement and her outstanding community spirit, and extend to her our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.